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10

KGB Expert Bares Soviet Active Measures

John Barron, a former U.S. naval intelligence officer, is a well-known investigative journalist who has received many awards. He is currently senior editor of Reader's Digest based in Washington, D.C. and is the author of several books, the most famous probably being KGB: The Secret Work of Soviet Secret Agents. Mr. Barron was recently interviewed by Cliff Kincaid, an associate editor of HUMAN EVENTS, about his latest book, KGB Today: The Hidden Hand (Reader's Digest Press, \$19.95).

Q. Mr. Barron, several chapters of your book are based on interviews with Stanislav Levchenko, the KGB major stationed in Japan who defected to the U.S. in 1978. What were his major revelations and what effect have they had?

A. He revealed the identities of many of the KGB agents who helped comprise the Tokyo network of the KGB. These included key leaders of the Japanese Socialist Party and the prominent governing Liberal Democratic party. He identified as KGB agents the editor-in-chief of the largest conservative newspaper in Japan, important journalists on other leading newspapers, as well as the Kyodo news service.

Beyond that, Levchenko laid bare the whole *modus operandi* of the KGB in a major industrialized democracy. We know from his intimate and authoritative knowledge that all he exposed in Japan, the KGB is attempting to do in Washington and in every other capital.

But I would say that despite the devastation wrought upon KGB operations in Japan, the major import of Stanislav Levchenko's disclosures is the insight it has afforded us into the Soviet concept and practice of what the KGB calls "active measures." That is a wide range of actions extending from the overt to the deeply clandestine, orchestrated to affect the policies, opinions and destinies of other nations. We've never had anyone who had been at the core of these operations, who could detail them from the inside. I think that these intimate disclosures, explanations and analyses that Levchenko has provided have already affected the policies and some of the decisions of the U.S. government and the West as a whole.

Q. Can you talk about that?

A. I think that his analysis of how important the staging of the Olympics in the Soviet Union was to the Soviet oligarchy probably was a factor contributing to President Carter's decision to boycott the Olympics.

Levchenko explained that the Soviets had no hope of impressing the world with the delights of Soviet society. They had no illusions that the foreigners

flocking into Moscow would be thrilled by what they saw. But the oligarchy craves legitimacy. It is acutely aware that it rules only by force, not by any popular mandate.

By showing the Soviet people that the rest of the world was willing to come to Moscow to stage these games, which are symbolic of civilization, the oligarchy could communicate to the people, "See, we are legitimate, we are recognized, we are an accepted member of the world family." Levchenko's thesis was that if you withhold participation, your sanction, you will deprive them of what they want to achieve.

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